

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4767

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 4546

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PU

SUBJ: GUINEA BISSAU: PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
MARIA

1. LAST WEEK VICTOR S. MARIA THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF
NEWLY PROCLAIMED GUINEA-BISSAU GAVE SEPARATE INTERVIEWS
TO TOM JOHNSON WEST AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT OF NEW YORK
TIMES AND LARRY HEINZERLING OF AP.

2. MARIA TOLD HEINZERLING THAT PAIGC HAD HAD NO DIRECT
CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE IN TEN YEARS. IMPLICATION
HOWEVER, WAS THAT INDIRECT CONTACTS WERE TAKING PLACE.
HEINZERLING ASKED WHETHER PAIGC MIGHT BE WILLING CONCEDE
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS TO PORTUGUESE IN RETURN FOR PORTUGUESE
PULL OUT FROM GUINEA-BISSAU. MARIA DID NOT REJECT IDEA
BUT REPLIED HE COULD NOT DISCUSS QUESTION UNTIL PACIGC HAD
OPPORTUNITY SIT DOWN WITH PORTUGUESE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHNSON, MARIA CONFIRMED THAT
INDEPENDENCE PROCLAMATION OF GUINEA-B DID NOT, RPT NOT,
INCLUDE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, HE ALSO TOLD JOHNSON HE
COULD NOT REVEAL PRESENT LOCATION OF SEAT OF GOVT OF
GUINEA-B BUT THAT IT IS WITHIN TERRITORY OF NEW

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STATE. ACCORDING TO MARIA, PAIGC HAD DECIDED TO DECLARE

INDEPENDENCE AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
CURRENT OPENING OF UNGA.

4. MARIA ALSO OBSERVED TO JOHNSON THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE
HAVE DIFFERENT ATTITUDES THAN AMERICAN GOVT. HE
NOTED THAT PEOPLE WERE POWERFUL AND HAD CHANGED US ATTITUDE
ON VIETNAM. HE OBVIOUSLY WAS HOPEFUL THAT PEOPLE
COULD WORK SIMILAR CHANGE IN FAVOR OF GUINEA-BISSAU.
CLARK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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